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## PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

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### UNITED STATES.

#### *Medical officers detailed for duty at Mexican ports.*

The following-named officers have been detailed, under section 2 of the act approved February 15, 1893, for duty in the offices of the United States consuls at Mexican ports, to require of vessels leaving for the United States compliance with the Treasury quarantine regulations and to sign bills of health in conjunction with the United States consuls, namely: Vera Cruz, Assistant Surgeon Goldberger; Tampico, Acting Assistant Surgeon Frick; Progreso, Acting Assistant Surgeon Thompson.

#### *Quarantine treatment of vessels and baggage from Cuba.*

The following correspondence is published as indicating the attitude of the Bureau toward the question of treatment of vessels from Habana and other Cuban ports.

There are also included certain telegrams to and from the medical officer of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service stationed at Habana:

[Letters.]

NEW ORLEANS, *March 30, 1903.*

DR. WALTER WYMAN,  
*Surgeon-General U. S. Public Health Service,*  
*Washington, D. C.*

DEAR DOCTOR: The Galveston regulations require disinfection at the port of departure of vessels from Cuba coming to Louisiana, Texas, and Alabama, beginning May 1.

Kindly inform me if the United States Public Health Service will perform this disinfection at that port this year as it did last year.

The Cuban health authorities manage cases of yellow fever that are brought there in a manner which the parties to the Galveston conference are not as yet prepared to accept as thoroughly safe; hence the requirement.

Yours, very truly,

EDMOND SOUCHON, M. D.,  
*President Louisiana State Board of Health.*

P. S.—I have as yet received no reply to my letter of March 2, regarding quarantine inspectors along the Mississippi coast.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,  
*Washington, April 2, 1903.*

Dr. EDMOND SOUCHON,  
*President Louisiana State Board of Health,  
New Orleans, La.*

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 30th ultimo, in which you state the requirements of the Galveston conference and ask if the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service will perform the disinfection of vessels from Cuba coming to Louisiana, Texas, and Alabama after May 1, as provided for by said conference, and further stating that the parties to the Galveston conference are not as yet prepared to accept as safe the manner in which the Cuban health authorities manage cases of yellow fever brought into Cuba, and hence the requirements of said conference, I have to state that the Bureau has officers stationed at all important points in the island of Cuba, and a very important part of the duties of these officers is to furnish information to the Bureau of any outbreak of contagious or infectious disease at their ports, and it is believed that in this manner early and reliable information will be obtained of the existence of yellow fever at any given port.

At the present time there are no known cases of yellow fever at any place in the island of Cuba, and Habana has been free for two years or more in so far as the origination of cases in that city is concerned.

During the year 1902 the Bureau adopted the conservative policy of continuing quarantine restrictions against Habana on the principle that this city should demonstrate for a considerable period of time that it was no longer an endemic center before quarantine restrictions could be removed and the city of Habana treated as it is only fair to treat any city that has ceased to be an endemic focus of yellow fever.

The Bureau is now of the opinion that the time has arrived when Habana should be treated as no longer in the category of endemic centers, but simply as infectible territory, and carefully watched accordingly.

It therefore does not appear reasonable nor just that the disinfection applied at infected or suspected ports of departure to vessels for ports in the United States should be applied at a point where no yellow fever has had its origin for two years.

In addition to the presence of officers above alluded to, it should also be stated that the State health officer of Florida, who is also a sanitary inspector of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, makes and will continue to make, with the approval of the Bureau, visits to Habana for the purpose of acquainting himself with the health conditions at that point.

As understood by the Bureau, your regulations provide that all vessels shall be disinfected at Cuban ports from May to November, and that they shall be disinfected again upon arrival at your quarantine station. The necessity of disinfection of vessels leaving a port free from yellow fever is not apparent, and the Bureau can not undertake to do so while the conditions remain as they are at present.

The Bureau is giving favorable consideration to the matter of quarantine inspectors along the Mississippi coast, but will make that the subject of another letter.

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN,  
*Surgeon-General.*

QUARANTINE BOARD OF MOBILE BAY,  
*Mobile, Ala., April 6, 1903.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL, *Washington, D. C.*

SIR: We have sent you copy of our quarantine proclamation for the coming season, together with copy of rules adopted at Galveston January 26, 1903, by the State health officers of Texas and Louisiana and this board.

Will you kindly write me what regulations are to be enforced at Pensacola against vessels and passengers from Cuban ports, and also from intertropical ports not known to be actually infected with yellow fever?

You will notice from the Galveston rules that we propose to admit vessels and passengers from Cuban ports after disinfection at the Cuban ports and redisinfection here without further detention.

Yours, truly,

HENRY GOLDTHWAITE, M. D.,  
*Health and Executive Officer.*

APRIL 8, 1903.

Dr. HENRY GOLDTHWAITE,  
*Health and Executive Officer,  
 Quarantine Board of Mobile Bay, Mobile, Ala.*

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 6th instant, asking what regulations are to be enforced at Pensacola against vessels and passengers from Cuban ports, and also from intertropical ports not known to be actually infected with yellow fever, and calling attention to the rules adopted at Galveston, of which you sent the Bureau a copy, to the effect that you propose to admit vessels and passengers from Cuban ports after disinfection at the Cuban port and redisinfection at Mobile, without further detention, I have to inform you that Pensacola, as well as all other quarantine stations operated by the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, will be governed by the Quarantine Regulations, which are now in the hands of the printer, and copies of which will be sent you in a few days. The Bureau makes no specific rules for the governance of any one station, but it is intended that all shall be operated on uniform principles, as provided for in the law.

By direction of the Surgeon-General.

J. H. WHITE,  
*Assistant Surgeon-General.*

[Telegrams.]

MOBILE, ALA., *April 7, 1903.*

WYMAN, *Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Quarantine board will insist upon disinfection of vessels leaving Cuban ports for Mobile. Can it be done under supervision of Service officers? In view of Grubbs's recent article, "Vessels as carriers of mosquitoes," we think Cuban disinfection necessary by reason of large traffic between Habana and infected Mexican ports. Board meets Wednesday noon. Please reply.

GOLDTHWAITE, *Health Officer.*

APRIL 8, 1903.

Health Officer GOLDTHWAITE, *Quarantine Board, Mobile, Ala.*:

Bureau has officers in all Cuban ports for information. Dr. Porter, of Florida, will visit Habana from time to time. No case yellow fever known to have originated in Cuba within two years. General disinfection of all vessels leaving there therefore not deemed justifiable by Bureau, but special attention will be paid to any vessels from Mexican ports leaving Cuban ports for the United States, with a view to disinfection.

WYMAN.

APRIL 8, 1903.

WYMAN, *Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.*:

Will you permit disinfection of vessels from Habana for Mobile to be done there under supervision of service officers? Otherwise board will place man there for that purpose.

GOLDTHWAITE, *Health Officer.*

APRIL 9, 1903.

Health Officer GOLDTHWAITE, *Quarantine Board, Mobile, Ala.*:

Telegram received inquiring if Bureau will permit disinfection of vessels from Habana for Mobile, to be done there under supervision of Service officers. This inquiry is practically answered by my telegram of the 8th, in response to yours of the 7th. The Bureau intends to disinfect any vessel leaving Habana for the United States that needs disinfection, and in addition to the precautions mentioned in my telegram of April 8 a special officer has been ordered to Habana to keep Bureau informed regarding health details of city and vessels. The quarantine regulations of Cuba itself with regard to vessels from Mexican ports are quite rigid. (See Public Health Reports, December 26, p. 2914.) Have just received dispatch from medical officer in Habana, stating that Dr. Finlay declares most stringent measures and disinfection for mosquitoes will be enforced after May 1 on vessels arriving from infected Mexican ports.

WYMAN.

APRIL 7, 1903.

TROTTER, *Habana*:

Wire Bureau the intention of the Cuban quarantine authorities with regard to vessels from infected Mexican ports. Will they disinfect for mosquitoes?

WYMAN.

[Cablegram.]

HABANA, *April 9, 1903.*WYMAN, *Washington*:

Vessels from infected Mexican ports at present are treated under orders contained in Presidential decree transmitted to Bureau in my letter dated December 11.<sup>a</sup> Dr. Finlay states that more stringent measures and disinfection for mosquitoes will be enforced after May 1.

TROTTER.

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<sup>a</sup>See Public Health Reports, December 26, p. 2914.

[Letter.]

HABANA, CUBA, *April 11, 1903.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,  
*Washington, D. C.*

SIR: Relative to my cablegram of the 9th instant in regard to the treatment of vessels from infected ports on arrival at Cuba, I have the honor to report that I discussed the matter with Dr. Carlos J. Finlay, chief quarantine officer for Cuba, who stated that the disinfection of vessels after May 1 would be done on arrival, provided the vessel had not been disinfected at port of departure. Dr. Finlay proposes to use formaldehyde in the cabins and pyrethrum powder in other parts of the vessel. During the past winter vessels on arrival from infected Mexican ports were placed in quarantine and remained so until their departure, all nonimmune passengers being sent to quarantine to complete five days from port of departure, provided the vessel had not been at the dock at that port. If the vessel had touched at the dock, the passengers were held to complete five days from arrival at the Cuban port. Sanitary guards were placed on all vessels in quarantine and no communication was allowed, except by permission of the chief quarantine officer. Stevedores working on these vessels were required to be immune to yellow fever.

Dr. Finlay has paid particular attention to the quarantine service since taking charge, and evidently intends to take all measures to prevent the introduction of yellow fever into Cuba. The quarantine work at the port of Habana is, in my opinion, well performed, and the Cuban authorities have always rendered me full reports of any sickness occurring aboard of vessels in the bay. Dr. Menocal, in charge of the detention camp for nonimmunes, is engaged in remodeling the quarters of that camp, in order to render them mosquito proof and thus prevent any possible infection.

As stated in my weekly report transmitted on April 8, 1903, the President has allotted sufficient funds for the construction of a ward at Las Animas Hospital to be used for the isolation of contagious diseases. I have again to add that every precaution is being taken to prevent the introduction of yellow fever, and the measures in force are being rigidly carried out.

Respectfully,

F. E. TROTTER,  
*Assistant Surgeon, in Temporary Charge.*

[Cablegrams.]

APRIL 15, 1903.

TROTTER, *Habana, Cuba:*

Wire briefly description of quarantine work now being done under your direction, showing employment of each officer. Also same report of precautions to be taken after May 1, especially for furnishing information regarding the sanitary condition of shipping and port.

WYMAN.

HABANA, CUBA, *April 16, 1903.*WYMAN, *Washington:*

Quarantine work now being done consists of inspecting of vessels, crews, and passengers when bound direct to United States ports, issuing of certificates and labeling of baggage bound for Florida. Dr. Echemendia issues certificates. Frick inspects baggage and, with myself, clears vessels. After May 1 Florida boats will transact business under sanitary guard, and passengers for Florida will be required to obtain certificates of health. Vessels for Gulf ports will ask disinfection after May 1.

TROTTER.

[Telegrams.]

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *April 20, 1903.*

Dr. WALTER WYMAN,  
*Surgeon-General U. S. Public-Health Service,*  
*Washington, D. C.:*

Will Florida disinfect baggage arriving from Cuban ports when destined to Louisiana? Kindly reply soon possible.

EDMOND SOUCHON, M. D.  
*President State Board Health.*

APRIL 20, 1903.

Dr. EDMOND SOUCHON,  
*President Louisiana State Board of Health,*  
*New Orleans, La.:*

Will mail you revised regulations to-morrow. Disinfection of baggage for yellow fever not required by regulations, but if from port infected with yellow fever will be carefully inspected and all necessary measures taken. If from port infected with yellow fever it will also be disinfected on request of health officer of State to which it is bound.

By direction of the Surgeon-General.

J. H. WHITE,  
*Assistant Surgeon-General.*

[Reports to the Surgeon-General Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

*Summary of work in Chinatown, San Francisco, for week ended April 18, 1903.*

Following received from Surgeon Glennan, at San Francisco, under date of April 20, being record of work in Chinatown for week ended April 18:

Number of rooms reinspected .....	2,507
Number of buildings reinspected .....	354
Persons inspected .....	2,491
Sick inspected .....	52
Dead inspected .....	10
Number of necropsies .....	1
Rats examined bacteriologically .....	125
Rats found with pest infection .....	0
Places disinfected .....	576